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EXAMINER	
JACOBS, LASHONDA T	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2157	

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/800,100	GOLD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LaShonda T. Jacobs	2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 March 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *21-32 and 45-47* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *21-32 and 45-47* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *04 October 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is in response to Applicants' Election to Restriction Requirement filed on March 2, 2005. Claims 1-20 have been cancelled. Claims 21-32 and 45-47 are presented for further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims **21-32** and **45-47** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Momona in view of Matsuda et al (hereinafter, "Matsuda", U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0133573).

As per claim **21**, Momona discloses a method of configuring a plurality of computer entities into a plurality groups, each of said computer entities having a security mode settings and including:

- at least one data processor (col. 4, lines 26-33);
- least one data storage device (col. 4, lines 52-60); and
- a network connection for communicating with the other computer entities in the same group as said at least one data processor (col. 5, lines 15-29);
- one of said computer entities being a master computer entity of a particular group (col. 4, lines 26-33);

- at least one of the other said computer entities being a slave computer entity candidate of the particular group (col. 4, lines 26-33);
- at least one data processor and at least one storage device of said master computer entity being arranged to provide the functionality of said master computer entity to one or more slave computer entities of the particular group (col. 5, lines 15-32).

However, Momona does not explicitly disclose:

said method comprising performing the following steps for each the groups:

- attempting to set the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said master computer entity of the particular group;
- checking whether said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group has the same security mode setting as the master computer entity of the particular group; and
- if said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group does not have the same security mode setting as the master computer entity of the particular group, then preventing said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group from being a member of the particular group.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network comprising:

said method comprising performing the following steps for each the groups:

- attempting to set the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said master computer entity of the particular group (paragraph 0034 and 0043)

- checking whether said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group has the same security mode setting as the master computer entity of the particular group (paragraph 0049); and
- if said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group does not have the same security mode setting as the master computer entity of the particular group, then preventing said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group from being a member of the particular group (paragraph 0056).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Momona by providing configuration settings to a network to determine the priority between the first and second devices in order to monitor the network in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim **23**, Momona discloses a method of configuring plurality of computer entities into a plurality groups, each of said computer entities having at least one domain and comprising:

- at least one data processor (col. 4, lines 26-33);
- at least one data storage device (col. 4, lines 52-60);
- a network connection for communicating with the other computer entities in the same group as said at least one data processor (col. 5, lines 15-29);
- one of said computer entities being a master computer entity of a particular group (col. 4, lines 26-33);
- at least one of the other said computer entities being a slave computer entity candidate of the particular group (col. 4, lines 26-33); and

- at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said master computer entity being arranged to provide the functionality of said master computer entity to one or more slave computer entities of the particular group (col. 5, lines 15-32).

However, Momona does not explicitly disclose:

said method comprising performing the following steps for each the groups:

- attempting to set the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said master computer entity of the particular group;
- checking whether said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group has the same domain as the master computer entity of the particular group; and
- if said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group does not have the same domain as the master computer entity of the particular group, then preventing said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group from being a member of the particular group.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network comprising:

said method comprising performing the following steps for each the groups:

- attempting to set the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said master computer entity of the particular group (paragraph 0034 and 0043);
- checking whether said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group has the same domain as the master computer entity of the particular group (paragraph 0049); and

- if said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group does not have the same domain as the master computer entity of the particular group, then preventing said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group from being a member of the particular group (paragraph 0056).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Momona by providing configuration settings to a network to determine the priority between the first and second devices in order to monitor the network in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim **25**, Momona discloses a method of configuring plurality of computer entities into a plurality groups, each of said computer entities comprising:

- at least one data processor (col. 4, lines 26-33);
- at least one data storage device (col. 4, lines 52-60);
- a network connection for communicating with the other computer entities in the same group as said at least one data processor (col. 5, lines 15-29);
- one of said computer entities being a master computer entity of a particular group (col. 4, lines 26-33);
- at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said master computer entity being arranged to provide the functionality of said master computer entity to one or more slave computer entities of the particular group (col. 5, lines 15-32).

However, Momona does not explicitly disclose:

said method comprising:

- attempting to set the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said master computer entity of the particular group;
- determining whether said master computer entity of the particular group has a DCHP configuration;
- in response to the master entity of the particular group being determined as having DCHP configuration, determining is the master computer entity of the particular group can use UDP broadcast based on IP provisioning to connect the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group by name;
- in response to the master computer entity of the particular group being determined to be able to use UDP broadcast based IP provisioning to connect the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group name, causing the master computer entity of the particular group can used UDP broadcast based IP provisioning to connect to the particular group by name;
- determining if said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group has the DHCP configuration;
- in response to said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group being determined not have the DHCP configuration, preventing said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group from being a member of the particular group.
- checking whether said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group has the same domain as the master computer entity of the particular group; and
- if said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group does not have the same domain as the master computer entity of the particular group, then preventing said slave

computer entity candidate of the particular group from being a member of the particular group.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network comprising:

- attempting to set the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said master computer entity of the particular group (paragraph 0034 and 0043);
- determining whether said master computer entity of the particular group has a DCHP configuration (paragraphs 0011 and 0042-0043);
- in response to the master entity of the particular group being determined as having DCHP configuration, determining is the master computer entity of the particular group can use UDP broadcast based on IP provisioning to connect the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group by name (paragraphs 0056 and 0064);
- in response to the master computer entity of the particular group being determined to be able to use UDP broadcast based IP provisioning to connect the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group name, causing the master computer entity of the particular group can used UDP broadcast based IP provisioning to connect to the particular group by name (paragraphs 0056 and 0064);
- determining if said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group has the DHCP configuration (paragraph 0034 and 0043);

- in response to said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group being determined not have the DHCP configuration, preventing said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group from being a member of the particular group.
- checking whether said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group has the same domain as the master computer entity of the particular group (paragraphs 0056 and 0064); and
- if said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group does not have the same domain as the master computer entity of the particular group, then preventing said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group from being a member of the particular group (paragraphs 0064 and 0066).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Momona by using DHCP configurations to configure or modify settings of the master and slave computers in which the administrator can assign common settings to the computers in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim **27**, Matsuda in combination, a first headless computer entity capable of being a master computer entity for a group of headless computer entities, at least one additional second headless computer entity coupled with said first computer entity each of said computer entity comprising:

- at least one data processor (col. 4, lines 26-33);
- at least one data storage device (col. 4, lines 52-60);
- a network connection for communicating with the other computer entities in the same group as said at least one data processor (col. 5, lines 15-29); and

- the at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said first computer entity being arranged to provide the functionality of said master computer entity to one or more second computer entities of the particular group (col. 5, lines 15-32).

However, Momona does not explicitly disclose:

- the at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said first computer entity being arranged to apply at least one configuration setting to the at least one data storage device of the slave computer entity candidate of the group so said slave computer entity candidate of the group can be set to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said first computer entity;
- each of said computer entities having operating characteristics;

the at least one data processor of the first computer entity being arranged for:

(a) checking, via the network, whether the slave computer candidate of the particular group has at least one of the same operating characteristics as the first computer entity (; and

- (b) preventing said slave computer entity candidate from being a member of the group if said slave computer entity candidate does not have the same operating characteristics as a predetermined one of the operating characteristics of the first computer entity.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network comprising:

- the at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said first computer entity being arranged to apply at least one configuration setting to the at least one data storage device of the slave computer entity candidate of the group so said slave

computer entity candidate of the group can be set to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said first computer entity (paragraph 0034 and 0043);

- each of said computer entities having operating characteristics (paragraph 0034 and 0043);

the at least one data processor of the first computer entity being arranged for:

(a) checking, via the network, whether the slave computer candidate of the particular group has at least one of the same operating characteristics as the first computer entity paragraphs 0056 and 0064); and

- (b) preventing said slave computer entity candidate from being a member of the group if said slave computer entity candidate does not have the same operating characteristics as a predetermined one of the operating characteristics of the first computer entity (paragraphs 0064 and 0066).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Momona by using DHCP configurations to configure or modify settings of the master and slave computers in which the administrator can assign common settings to the computers in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claims **22**, **24** and **26**, Momona discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Momona does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the checking step is performed before said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group joins the particular group so said slave computer entity candidate of

the particular group is excluded from the particular group without ever joining the group.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network comprising:

- wherein the checking step is performed before said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group joins the particular group so said slave computer entity candidate of the particular group is excluded from the particular group without ever joining the group (paragraphs 0056 and 0064).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Momona by using DHCP configurations to configure or modify settings of the master and slave computers in which the administrator can assign common settings to the computers in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim **28**, Momona discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Momona does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the predetermined one of the operating characteristics of the first computer entity is security.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network comprising:

- wherein the predetermined one of the operating characteristics of the first computer entity is security (paragraph 0056).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Momona by providing configuration settings to

a network to determine the priority between the first and second devices in order to monitor the network in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim **29**, Momona discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Momona does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the predetermined one of the operating characteristics of the first computer entity is domain.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network comprising:

- wherein the predetermined one of the operating characteristics of the first computer entity is domain(paragraph 0056).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Momona by providing configuration settings to a network to determine the priority between the first and second devices in order to monitor the network in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim **30**, Momona discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Momona does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the predetermined one of the operating characteristics of the first computer entity is configuration.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network comprising:

- wherein the predetermined one of the operating characteristics of the first computer entity is configuration (paragraph 0056).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Momona by providing configuration settings to a network to determine the priority between the first and second devices in order to monitor the network in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim **31**, Momona discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Momona does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the configuration DHCP.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network comprising:

- wherein the configuration DHCP (paragraphs 0056 and 0064).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Momona by using DHCP configurations to configure or modify settings of the master and slave computers in which the administrator can assign common settings to the computers in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim **32**, Momona discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Momona does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the predetermined one of the operating characteristics is UPD broadcast based IP provisioning to connect to group name, followed by a determination that the slave computer entity candidate can be configured for DHCP.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network comprising:

- wherein the predetermined one of the operating characteristics is UPD broadcast based IP provisioning to connect to group name, followed by a determination that the slave computer entity candidate can be configured for DHCP (paragraphs 0064 and 0066).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Momona by using DHCP configurations to configure or modify settings of the master and slave computers in which the administrator can assign common settings to the computers in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim **33**, Momona discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above. However, Momona does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the predetermined one of the operating conditions provisioning to connect to the group UPD broadcast based IP name.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network comprising:

- wherein the predetermined one of the operating conditions provisioning to connect to the group UPD broadcast based IP name (paragraphs 0064 and 0066).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Momona by using DHCP configurations to configure or modify settings of the master and slave computers in which the administrator can assign common settings to the computers in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim **45**, Momona discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above. However, Momona does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the attempt to set step is performed by causing the at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said master computer entity to apply at least one configuration setting to the at least one data storage device of the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group is set to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said master computer entity of the particular group.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network comprising:

- wherein the attempt to set step is performed by causing the at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said master computer entity to apply at least one configuration setting to the at least one data storage device of the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group is set to have an equivalent functionality to a user as said master computer entity of the particular group (paragraph 0034 and 0043).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Momona by providing configuration settings to a network to determine the priority between the first and second devices in order to monitor the network in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim **46**, Momona discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Momona does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the attempt to set step is performed by causing at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said master computer entity to apply at least one configuration setting to the at least one data storage device of the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network comprising:

- wherein the attempt to set step is performed by causing at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said master computer entity to apply at least one configuration setting to the at least one data storage device of the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group (paragraph 0034 and 0043).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Momona by providing configuration settings to a network to determine the priority between the first and second devices in order to monitor the network in a timely and efficient manner.

As per claim **47**, Momona discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Momona does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the attempt to set step is performed by causing at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said master computer entity to apply a east one configuration setting to the at least one data storage device of the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group.

Matsuda discloses a method and apparatus for initializing a device on a network comprising:

- wherein the attempt to set step is performed by causing at least one data processor and at least one data storage device of said master computer entity to apply a east one configuration setting to the at least one data storage device of the slave computer entity candidate of the particular group (paragraph 0034 and 0043).

Given the teaching of Matsuda, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Momona by providing configuration settings to a network to determine the priority between the first and second devices in order to monitor the network in a timely and efficient manner.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-33 and 45-47 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ltj
May 13, 2005

LaShonda T Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157